REMARKS

The present application was filed on July 25, 2003 with claims 1-23. Claims 1, 8, 9, 17 and 23 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, 7, 19 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-5, 8-18 and 21-23 are pending, and claims 1, 17, and 23 are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding final Office Action dated April 10, 2007, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1, 3-9, 13-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,427,146 to Chu et al. (hereinafter "Chu"); and (ii) rejected claims 8, 10-12, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0078406 to Kondoh et al. (hereinafter "Kondoh").

Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 9, 17 and 23and canceled claims 2, 6, 7, 19 and 20 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

In regard to the rejection of claims 1, 3-9, 13-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated over Chu, Applicants have amended claims 1, 17, and 23 to clarify the subject matter of such claims. Independent claims 1, 17, and 23 now recite the establishment of an appropriate rule template for a message structure by scanning the message data, building a message skeleton, comparing previously generated rule templates to the message skeleton, providing potential rule template matches to the user for validation and choice of a selected rule template, determining whether the selected rule template contains enough information to identify individual messages, building a rule template through an iterative process between the user and the machine based on user selection of at least a portion of the message and designating the built rule template as a template to be used in the construction of one or more message parsing rules, when the selected rule template does not contain enough information, and designating the selected rule template as a template to be used in the construction of one or more message parsing rules. The independent claims further recite the generation of one or more message parsing rules by a process based on the obtained message data
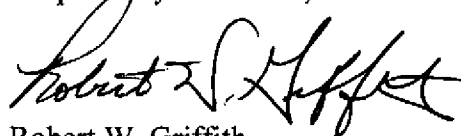
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and the template to be used in the construction of one or more message parsing rules, and defining positive and negative examples in an unparsable message by the user, learning and creating possible rules covering positive examples at the machine, and adding a newly created rule to the one or more message parsing rules, wherein the one or more parsing rules are storable for access by a rule-based parsing system. Support for these amendments can be found on pages 10-14 of the Specification. Applicants respectfully assert that these amendments adequately distinguish the claims from Chu.

Dependent claims 3-5, 8, 9, 13-16 and 18 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 17, and also recite patentable subject matter in their own right. Dependent claims 6, 7, 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 3-9, 13-20 and 23 is respectfully requested.

In regard to the rejection of claims 8, 10, 11, and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu in view of Kondoh, Applicants respectfully assert that Kondoh fails to remedy the deficiencies of Chu described above. Therefore, dependent claims 8, 10, 11 and 21-22 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 17, and also recite patentable subject matter in their own right. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 8, 10, 11, and 21-22 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1, 3-5, 8-18 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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